During the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) ONGC produced 75.77 million metric tonnes (MMT) of oil and 72.306 billion cubic metres (BCM) of gas from the areas under its operation. The ultimate reserve accretion during the above period by ONGC from the areas under its operation was 173.87 MMT of oil and oil equivalent of gas.

(c) Presently, ONGC is exploring for oil and gas in the Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Bengal and Mahanadi Offshore basins in East Coast and Mumbai, Kutch-Saurashtra and Kerala Konkan Offshore basin in West Coast. The onland areas where ONGC has been carrying out oil and gas exploration are, Cambay, Jaisalmer, Assam and Assam Arakan, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Bengal, Himalayan Foreland, Ganga and Vindhyan basins.

(d) The targets set by ONGC for production of crude oil and natural gas for the year 2003-04 are 26.387 MMT and 23.317 BCM, respectively.

Increase in price of natural gas

†959. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to increase the price of natural gas after 1st April, 2003;

(b) if so, by how much it will be increased and by when; and

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has given any representation for not increasing the price of gas; if so, what are the details of the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of Maharashtra has represented against increase in natural gas price as this will have adverse effect on the cost of power.

Exploration of oil and gas in Maharashtra

†960. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken by ONGC to explore oil and natural gas in the sea-bed of Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any progress has been made in this area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) In the sea bed off the coast of Maharashtra State, which form part of Mumbai offshore basin, covering both shallow water and deep water areas, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) holds Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) for 12 blocks, 10 in shallow water and 2 in deepwater, on nomination basis and 5 blocks, 3 in shallow water and 2 in deepwater, awarded under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) to (d) ONGC has acquired 28,886 Line Kilometer (LK) of Two-dimensional (2-D) and 8,929 square kilometer of Three-dimensional (3-D) seismic data and has drilled 33 'exploration' wells in above PEL areas during the last three years. Further in the year 2003-04 (till 30.6.2003), ONGC has drilled 3 more wells. Out of the total 36 'exploration' wells drilled, 11 wells are oil and 5 are gas bearing. Also 7 wells gave indications of oil and gas. These exploratory efforts resulted in five new finds and an accretion of 95.77 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) (Oil+Oil Equivalent Gas) of ultimate reserves.

Import of LNG from IRAN

†961. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have signed a pact with Iran for import of some five million tones of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) and Government have offered to extend their expertise in refinery upgradation and technology for automotive CNG;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the commercial terms of the LNG imports have not yet been worked out; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.